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BLIND BOY'S PLUCK.

A North Carolina Boy Making His Way Through Harvard.

Although suffering from total blindness since his 11th year, Mr. Edward Ray, of North Carolina, now a student in the graduate school of Harvard, living at 16 Oxford street, has successfully mastered the most difficult courses in higher mathematics, in geology, won a degree from the University of North Carolina and is now working for the degree of M. A. at Harvard. Here he is taking some of the hardest courses in the curriculum, Gothic and Anglo-Saxon.

In addition to his struggle against blindness, Ray has been further retarded by a lack of funds. He has had to work his way along from the start, and has done this by tuning pianos and organs and by lecturing throughout the South. It has been a hard struggle, but the young man is as cheerful and as full of enthusiasm as the luckiest man in the University. In a struggle for a master's degree he is attempting something unique. No blind student heretofore has ever had the hardihood to try for other academic honors than that of A. B. Men in full possession of health find it no easy task to secure this, but this man, with the aid of his prodigious memory, is able to keep abreast of the foremost scholars in his class.

Ray was born in a country town in North Carolina. His early days were spent at the village school and romping about with other boys. Then he became blind and realized it was for life. Instead of settling down to live a life of uselessness, this affliction seemed only to spur him on. He went to the blind school of Tennessee, and by hard work succeeded in graduating from there in 1896, the first scholar in his class. The following autumn he entered the Raleigh (N. C.) blind school, finishing this course in 1899, again the head of his class. By this time he had made up his mind to go to college, for which he was now prepared, in order to raise money for this purpose he taught subscription school and learned to tune organs and pianos. He entered the University of North Carolina in 1900. He took the regular courses and soon made a name for himself for his accurate and broad scholarship. Among other things he took a laboratory course in geology. He completed the work in three years and was granted the degree of A. B.

The year following he spent in lecturing. He was popular as a speaker, and in this way was able to pick up enough to fulfill his ambition of winning a degree from Harvard. He was interested in English and so came here and entered the courses in Anglo-Saxon, Chaucer, Bacon, Shakespeare and Gothic.

He takes all his notes with a New York point slate and is able to take them as fully as the average man with paper and pencil. This slate consists of a metal base containing grooves. Upon this a slip of course paper is placed and over this a movable strip of brass containing holes. Through these he punches with a small awl a certain number of dots, which in a standard arrangement represent letters. It is remarkable to see with what speed he has learned to operate this. To read the record all that is necessary for him to do is to pass his fingers lightly on the slightly raised dots. This he can do about as rapidly as it would take

a man to spell out a word. One of the most remarkable things about Ray is his great memory. Forced as his mind has been to answer in the place of eyes, of extensive notes, it has developed to a point that is marvelous. He has made a specialty of etymology, and the countless derivations which it is necessary for him to retain at his tongue's end, would make an ordinary man dizzy. His reading he has done for him, but it is necessary for him to remember each book he is studying almost word for word and page for page. After a chapter has been read over to him three or four times it has been fixed on his memory for all time. Every precious volume which he has heard he stores up for future reference, for they are expensive. There are a number of his class-mates at the college who give a bit of their time to him in this way.

A startling illustration of the efficiency of his memory is seen in his knowledge of mathematics. He solves intricate problems that have baffled the best mathematicians. And he has first to draw out in his brain the necessary figure, and remembering this, go on from there working it out with every step taken, so fixed that it shall remain clear to the end. The numbers which an ordinary man would need a dozen sheets of paper to keep in mind he remembers perfectly. In this way he has mastered many of the higher branches of mathematics.

He says he has but little system about it. He uses the common trick as a help, of making words and sentences out of the first letters of a long series of names which he wishes to remember. Otherwise it is simply a process of concentration.

Ray is very fond of walking. Every evening after his day's work is done, he links his arm in the arm of some friend and the two wander about for several hours. He attends as many of the symphonies as he can, and this is about his only form of amusement. He finds his real pleasure in his studies. His ambition is to secure a position as a teacher, and hopes to be able to prepare himself sufficient to hold such a chair in some college.

"I don't know, of course, just what I shall do. I don't wish to teach in a blind school, but in some regular college."

That is one of the characteristics of the man. He asks and gives no favors. Even with his serious handicap, he holds himself on a par with other men—rises from scratch—and somehow generally finishes in the lead. He is to-day the admiration and wonder of the instructors in the graduate school.

TO MANUFACTURE PAPER.

Project for the Establishment of Large Plant at Roanoke Rapids.

Richmond, Va., May 14.—Richmond capitalists are interested in a project for the establishment at Roanoke Rapids, about five miles from Weldon, N. C., on the Roanoke river and on the Raleigh & Gaston railroad, of a large plant for the manufacture of pulp and paper. They control the property at the point mentioned, which has facilities for enormous water power. The home offices of the company are to be in this city, where it is understood, most of the capital has been subscribed. The stock of the company is to be put at a maximum of \$150,000 and a minimum of \$100,000, and it is said that \$125,000 has already been subscribed. A charter is soon to be applied for.

CIRCUS ROBBERY'S SEQUEL.

W. T. Spauth, Auditor of the Hagenbeck Circus, Arrested at Cleveland on Charge of Looting the Forepaugh-Sells Strong Box in 1904.

Cleveland, Ohio, May 15.—William T. Spauth, auditor of the Carl Hagenbeck Circus, was arrested here last night, charged with the theft of \$30,000 from the ticket wagon of the Forepaugh-Sells Show in October, 1904, while he was treasurer of that enterprise. The robbery, it is alleged, occurred at Tarboro, N. C. The arrest was made by Sheriff Karb and Deputy Phelan, of Columbus. Spauth was seized while at work in the ticket wagon, handcuffed, hustled into a waiting automobile and taken to a railroad station 30 miles away. From there he was taken to Columbus. Extrajudicial papers have been prepared and he will be taken to North Carolina for trial.

SPAITH DENIES CHARGE.

His Attorneys Will Fight Requisition—Sheriff Cotton, of Edgecombe County, Caused the Arrest.

Columbus, O., May 15.—M. T. Spauth, auditor of the Hagenbeck Show, who was arrested in Cleveland last night and brought here this morning on the charge of being concerned in the robbery of the treasure box of the Forepaugh-Sells Brother's Circus at Tarboro, N. C., in the fall of 1904 of \$30,000, was released to-night on bail in the sum of \$1,000. The bond was signed by Robert W. Bell and wife, of this city.

There are some queer features in connection with the arrest of Spauth. He was taken into custody at Cleveland, on information furnished by the sheriff of Edgecombe county, N. C., who asked Sheriff Karb to make the arrest. There was no requisition issued by Governor Patterson at the request of the Governor of North Carolina, and after Spauth was brought here and placed in jail a warrant was sworn out by Lewis Sells and John E. Sater as administrator of the estate of the late Peter Sells. W. W. Cole and late James A. Bailey appear on the affidavit as the owners of the money. John W. Cotton, sheriff for Edgecombe county, filed the warrant. He is here to take Spauth back to the scene of the alleged robbery.

A determined fight will be made against the return of Spauth and his attorneys said tonight that the matter would be presented to Governor Patterson in a brief way at Christ's Hospital within the next few days of this action.

Spauth to-night denied most vehemently that he had taken the money. He said it had always been his custom while he was connected with the Forepaugh-Sells Show to put the keys to the circus safe in his vest pocket and place the vest under his wife's pillow, as she slept on the inside of the berth of the show car. On the night of the robbery, he explained, the thief must have reached over him and taken the keys from his vest pocket, as he was not touched by the thief.

The Cotton Seed Oil Industry.

The census reports show that in 1900 there were 857 cotton seed oil mills in the United States. In 1905 the number had increased to 717. Not a bad showing for the progress of the South.

The cotton states produced in 1905 133,000,000 gallons of cotton seed oil. North Carolina produced over 6,000,000.

Employing Children Under 12 in Factories Evidence of Negligence.

The Supreme Court in a case from Forsyth county holds that the employing of children under 12 years of age in factories operates as evidence of negligence in case such child employed is injured. The hand of a boy under 12 years was injured in a machine, where he had been told to place it through the negligence of another employee. The Superior Court non-suited the case, but the Supreme Court grants a new trial. The decision will have an effect in a number of mills in which, it is alleged, children really under 12 are employed, though parents and children often advance the ages of the latter in making statements to obtain work.

A DAY AT CHADBOURN.

For Hilarity and Sensations Oklahoma Does Not Compare to Chadbourn in a Strawberry Scene in Eastern North Carolina.

The editor of the Carolina Fruit and Truckers' Journal made a trip to Chadbourn last Saturday, where he witnessed the strawberry movement in the zenith of its glory. All day long wagons of every size and dimension, carts and rigs of more designs than there were colors in Joseph's coat, came and went, it seemed to us, every minute in the day. There were from twenty to thirty buyers on the spot, and it was a give and take game throughout the day. Cars were iced and re-iced, loaded and hustled out like so many pigs or beeves at a slaughter house; people were coming and going, some walking, some running in one direction, others in another, some laughing, some swearing, some hollering, and taken altogether, it was a typical strawberry shipping scene.

In the afternoon there were easily 2,000 people on the streets, of all colors and hues, with an occasional Croatan Indian here and there to give the touch of border life in the wild and woolly West. Vendors of wares, fruits, etc., were valiantly pleading their cause and telling their prices in no uncertain sound; hobby-horses were making merry with the pipe organ; paid off hands were to be seen in clusters of a half dozen to a dozen at different points, some picking the banjo and others dancing, with an occasional Romeo and Juliet, walking hand in hand, to give a touch of romance to the scene. Commission merchants and solicitors were in their shirt sleeves making the air ring with their calls for "more cars!" "iced cars!" "refrigerated cars!" Perspiration was flowing as freely as hard cider ever did in the famous "Log Cabin Campaign," away back yonder in the days of William Henry Harrison, of Tippecanoe and Tyler, too, fame. Strawberries came and went at a pace that will long be remembered, some under the hammer of platform sales, while others went out on consignment. Money was flowing freely, and in its distribution every man, woman and child seemed to take a hand.

There were to be heard some loud complaints on account of the shortage in iced cars, many berries having to stand out on the ground in the sunshine for hours for want of refrigerated cars in which to be loaded. The icing station at Chadbourn, however, was worked to its fullest capacity, but not being intended as an initial icing station it naturally fell far short of the requirements of the hour. Doubtless those in charge did all that could have been done under the circumstances, but even that was poor consolation to the fellow who had put up his money for strawberries which were tied up, confronted with no cars in which to load them; while the grower who shipped them on consignment, found himself face to face with the same trouble.

For hilarity and sensations the Oklahoma Reservation towns in the past would hardly compare favorably with Chadbourn at this season of the year, for in the day time it is bustle, and bustle and hurrah among the buyers and shippers, icing and re-icing cars, passing and shifting locomotives, steam whistles, etc., while at night negro minstrels and pickaninies with their banjos and tambourines make merry with their voices till the cock crows. On Sunday everybody goes to church when they worship their God according to the dictates of their conscience, where quietness reigns supreme and that good fellowship such as is taught by the "fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man" sentiment is scrupulously observed.

Lifted the Bank's Capital and Departed.

Ridgeway, a small town thirty miles this side of Columbia, S. C., has developed an artist in the way of a bank teller. W. H. Kuff, Jr., son of the president of the bank, resigned and left town last week. Soon afterwards it was discovered that the young man's accounts were short \$25,000, which represented the entire capital of the institution. The former teller's father put up \$20,000 and the directors \$5,000 and the bank has resumed business. Meantime the whereabouts of young Kuff are unknown.

WROTE LETTER TO HIMSELF?

General Opinion at the Capital is That Letter Purporting to Have Been Written by President to Senator Allison Was, in Reality, Composed by Allison Himself.

Washington, May 15.—Everybody was of one mind to-day on the proposition that the letter of President Roosevelt to Senator Allison, purporting to be a reply to his critics, did not sound at all like the President. Some there were who professed the belief that Mr. Allison, who has won great renown as a straddler at national conventions, wrote the letter himself to himself. It was realized that this idea was not so far-fetched after all when it is remembered that Mr. Roosevelt conferred with the Iowa Senator for an hour or so before giving the letter to the press. All the President's advisers admonished him to remain calm and turn the other cheek if necessary to prevent another scene in the Senate and they now admit that he turned out a document that is calculated to turn away wrath. A DIFFERENT CODE OF HONOR.

After reading the letter in the Senate to-day, Mr. Tillman, having in mind the act of the President in deserting his allies without warning, observed that the President and his Attorney General had a right to change their mind if they so desired, but that it was evident that a different code of honor obtained at the White House and among cabinet officials than that which applied to ordinary folk. Some of the Democrats do not like the Attorney General's attempt to beyond the issue, when Bailey has got him down in black and white. There is no use for him to deny anything.

CHANDLER REITERATES HIS STATEMENT.

In Mr. Tillman's statement to-day, which again was written, he submitted a statement from Mr. Chandler, who reiterated what he had said as to the President's remarks concerning Messrs. Foraker, Knox and Spooner, which over the telephone the President characterized as falsehoods; that is, unless the Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge himself is the man who told the falsehood. But the matter seems to have been dropped, so far as the President is concerned. He cannot explain it satisfactorily even to his most intimate friends, who all know that every indication is, despite what the President may say, that Mr. Chandler has told the truth.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN STATE CONVENTION.

Senator Simmons announced to-day that he had asked Locke Craig, of Asheville, to serve as temporary chairman of the Democratic State convention, which meets in July. Mr. Craig will touch upon State and national issues and his speech will really be the opening of the State campaign.

GASTONIA'S GOOD WAY.

It is Commended to Those Who Observe Memorial Day with the Veterans.

Charlotte Chronicle, 12th.

Memorial Day observance in Charlotte is believed, by some, to be too much on the vespers order. The exercises are held too late in the afternoon and only a few veterans from the county can find it convenient to attend. The veterans' division of the parade Thursday was a conspicuously slim one. It has been suggested that some arrangement by which a larger attendance of veterans could be secured would be desirable. The Gaston county plan is an admirable one. Memorial Day is made the occasion of a general gathering of the people of Gaston county, at Gastonia, where the veterans are welcomed with speeches and feasting, the women of the town preparing a dinner for them. The spread Thursday, as we see by The Gazette, consisted of:

Strawberries and Whipped Cream, Chicken, Ham, Sweet Peas, String Beans, Hot Biscuits, Light Bread, Pickles, Ice Cream, and Assorted Cakes.

That is something like it. How would it do for Charlotte to try the Gaston plan? The day should be made a more hospitable occasion. The observance here is too much of a perfunctory order. Memorial Day deserves something better at the hands of Charlotte people.

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